

II. REMARKS

In the Office Action dated May 28, 2002, claims 1-9 were pending. Claim 1 was allowed, claims 2-5 were rejected, and claims 6-9 were objected to.

The following remarks will follow the order set forth in the Office Action.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,997,320 to DeMello. Claim 2 has been amended to claim that the female end of the dummy plug is capable of being inserted into a vacant cavity. The part in DeMello that the Examiner has labeled the female end is clearly not capable of being inserted into anything. The part in DeMello is just an opening. The undersigned believes that claim 2 is novel over DeMello, and therefore, dependent claims 3-5 are as well.

IV. CONCLUSION

In response to the Office Action dated May 28, 2003, arguments have been provided in response to the Examiner's rejections. At this point, applicant believes that the claims remaining in the case distinguish over the art cited and comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102, §103, and §112. As such, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the required fee or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1210.

Respectfully submitted,

BROUSE MCDOWELL

September 2, 2003
Date

Telephone No.: (330) 535-5711
Fax No.: (330) 535-5000


Daniel A. Thomson, Esq.
Reg. No. 43,189
500 First National Tower
Akron, Ohio 44308-1471